

109TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1247

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish a scholarship program to encourage and support students who have contributed substantial public services.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JUNE 14, 2005

Mr. DODD (for himself, Ms. MIKULSKI, Ms. LANDRIEU, Mr. LEVIN, Ms. CANTWELL, and Mr. KERRY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to establish a scholarship program to encourage and support students who have contributed substantial public services.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Youth Service Scholar-
5 ship Act of 2005”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds that—

1 (1) young people under 18 years of age are now
2 our Nation's most impoverished age group, with 1 of
3 every 5 living in poverty, a higher proportion than
4 in 1968, and the percentage of minority children liv-
5 ing in poverty is about twice as high;

6 (2) more than 1 of 4 families is headed by a
7 single parent and the percentage of such families
8 has risen steadily over the past few decades, rising
9 13 percent since 1990;

10 (3) there is a need to engage youth as active
11 participants in decisionmaking that affects their
12 lives, including in the design, development, imple-
13 mentation, and evaluation of youth development pro-
14 grams at the Federal, State, and community levels;

15 (4) existing outcome driven youth development
16 strategies, pioneered by community-based organiza-
17 tions, hold real promise for promoting positive be-
18 haviors and preventing youth problems;

19 (5) formal evaluations of youth development
20 programs have documented significant reductions in
21 drug and alcohol use, school misbehavior, aggressive
22 behavior, violence, truancy, high-risk sexual behav-
23 ior, and smoking;

24 (6) compared to youth in the United States
25 generally, youth participating in community-based

1 organizations are more than 26 percent more likely
 2 to report having received recognition for good grades
 3 than youth in the United States generally and nearly
 4 20 percent more likely to rate the likelihood of their
 5 going to college as very high; and

6 (7) the availability and use of Federal resources
 7 can be an effective incentive to leverage broader
 8 community support to enable local programs, activi-
 9 ties, and services to provide the full array of develop-
 10 mental core resources, remove barriers to access,
 11 promote program effectiveness, and facilitate coordi-
 12 nation and collaboration within the community.

13 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.**

14 Subpart 2 of part A of title IV of the Higher Edu-
 15 cation Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a–11 et seq.) is
 16 amended—

17 (1) by redesignating section 407E as section
 18 406E; and

19 (2) by adding at the end the following:

20 **“CHAPTER 4—PUBLIC SERVICE** 21 **INCENTIVES**

22 **“SEC. 407A. PURPOSE.**

23 “The purpose of this chapter is to establish a scholar-
 24 ship program to reward low-income students who have,
 25 during high school, and who continue, during college, to

1 make significant public service contributions to their com-
 2 munities.

3 **“SEC. 407B. SCHOLARSHIPS AUTHORIZED.**

4 “(a) QUALIFICATIONS FOR SCHOLARSHIPS.—The
 5 Secretary is authorized to award a scholarship to enable
 6 a student to pay the cost of attendance at an institution
 7 of higher education during the student’s first 4 academic
 8 years of undergraduate education, if the student—

9 “(1) in order to be eligible for the first year of
 10 such scholarship, performed not less than 300 hours
 11 of qualifying public service during each of 2 aca-
 12 demic years of the student’s secondary school enroll-
 13 ment;

14 “(2) in order to be eligible for the second or
 15 any subsequent year of such scholarship, performed
 16 not less than 300 hours of qualifying public service
 17 during the academic year of postsecondary school at-
 18 tendance preceding the academic year for which the
 19 student seeks such scholarship;

20 “(3) was eligible for a free or reduced price
 21 lunch under the Richard B. Russell National School
 22 Lunch Act (42 U.S.C. 1721 et seq.);

23 “(4) is eligible to receive Federal Pell Grants
 24 for the year in which the scholarships are awarded,
 25 except that a student shall not be required to comply

1 or verify compliance with section 484(a)(5) for pur-
 2 poses of receiving a scholarship under this chapter;
 3 and

4 “(5) otherwise demonstrates compliance with
 5 regulations prescribed by the Secretary under sec-
 6 tion 407G.

7 “(b) DEFINITION OF QUALIFYING PUBLIC SERV-
 8 ICE.—For purposes of subsection (a), the term ‘qualifying
 9 public service’ means service that would be eligible for
 10 treatment as community service under the National and
 11 Community Service Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C. 12501 et seq.)
 12 or under the Federal work-study program under part C.

13 **“SEC. 407C. AMOUNT OF SCHOLARSHIP.**

14 “(a) AMOUNT OF AWARD.—

15 “(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in para-
 16 graph (2) and subsection (b), the amount of a schol-
 17 arship awarded under this chapter for any academic
 18 year shall be equal to \$5,000.

19 “(2) ADJUSTMENT FOR INSUFFICIENT APPRO-
 20 PRIATIONS.—If, after the Secretary determines the
 21 total number of students selected under section
 22 407D for an academic year, funds available to carry
 23 out this chapter for the academic year are insuffi-
 24 cient to fully fund all awards under this chapter for
 25 the academic year, the amount of the scholarship

1 paid to each student under this chapter shall be re-
 2 duced proportionately.

3 “(b) ASSISTANCE NOT TO EXCEED COST OF AT-
 4 TENDANCE.—A scholarship awarded under this chapter to
 5 any student, in combination with the Federal Pell Grant
 6 assistance and other student financial assistance available
 7 to such student, may not exceed the student’s cost of at-
 8 tendance.

9 **“SEC. 407D. SELECTION OF SCHOLARSHIP RECIPIENTS.**

10 “The Secretary shall designate a panel to select stu-
 11 dents for the award of scholarships under this chapter.
 12 Such panel shall be composed of 9 individuals who are
 13 selected by the Secretary and shall be composed of equal
 14 numbers of youths, community representatives, and teach-
 15 ers. The Secretary shall ensure that no individual assigned
 16 under this section to review any application has any con-
 17 flict of interest with regard to the application that might
 18 impair the impartiality with which the individual conducts
 19 the review under this section.

20 **“SEC. 407E. APPLICATIONS.**

21 “Any eligible student desiring to obtain a scholarship
 22 under this section shall submit to the Secretary an appli-
 23 cation at such time, in such manner, and containing such
 24 information or assurances as the Secretary may require.
 25 Such application shall—

1 “(1) demonstrate that the eligible student is
 2 maintaining satisfactory academic progress and is
 3 achieving a grade point average of at least 3.0 (on
 4 a scale of 4), or its equivalent;

5 “(2) include a recommendation from—

6 “(A) the supervisor of the community serv-
 7 ice project of the applicant; and

8 “(B) another individual not related to, but
 9 familiar with the character of the applicant
 10 such as a teacher, coach, or employer; and

11 “(3) include an essay by the applicant on the
 12 nature of the community service performed by the
 13 applicant.

14 **“SEC. 407F. PROGRAM DISSEMINATION AND PROMOTION.**

15 “(a) DEVELOPMENT AND DISSEMINATION.—The
 16 Secretary shall develop and disseminate to the public in-
 17 formation on the availability of, and application process
 18 for, scholarships under this chapter.

19 “(b) PROMOTION.—In disseminating information
 20 about the scholarship program under this chapter, the
 21 Secretary shall—

22 “(1) disseminate such information directly or
 23 through arrangements with local educational agen-
 24 cies, public and private elementary schools and sec-
 25 ondary schools, nonprofit organizations, consumer

1 groups, Federal, State, or local agencies, and the
2 media; and

3 “(2) at a minimum, include a description and
4 the purpose of the scholarship program, an expla-
5 nation of how to obtain an application, and a de-
6 scription of the application process and procedures.

7 **“SEC. 407G. REGULATIONS.**

8 “The Secretary shall prescribe such regulations as
9 may be necessary to carry out this chapter.

10 **“SEC. 407H. EVALUATION.**

11 “Not earlier than 2 years after the first fiscal year
12 for which funds are made available under this chapter, the
13 Secretary shall prepare and submit to Congress an evalua-
14 tion of the effectiveness of the program under this chapter.
15 Such evaluation shall include—

16 “(1) an evaluation of the demand, by grade
17 level and types of community service sites, for the
18 scholarships provided under this chapter;

19 “(2) general data on the background of pro-
20 gram participants and the types of service per-
21 formed; and

22 “(3) an itemization of the costs of admin-
23 istering the program under this chapter.

1 **“SEC. 407I. AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

2 “There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out
3 this chapter \$5,000,000 for fiscal year 2006 and such
4 sums as are necessary for each of the 3 succeeding fiscal
5 years.”.

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